

enemy and give support to General Sumter, then manoeuvring against Tarleton in the upper districts of that State.

General Gates, with the main army, subsequently took the same direction, and had occupied Charlotte, when he was superseded in the command by Gen. Greene. Need I add, that the appointment of this illustrious man, (approaching, in his characteristics, so much nearer to the great Commander-in-chief than any other officer in that war,) to the head of the army of the South, filled all hearts with gladness and hope. The Board of War, in a correspondence which was immediately opened, expressed to him its great satisfaction upon this event, and engaged to draw forth all the powers of the State, and every necessary resource in it, to support him; "that," say they, "the command with which you are dignified, may be honorable to yourself, as well as satisfactory to the country." The transfer of the command was announced in general orders on the 3rd. of December.

General Smallwood having been promoted to a Major Generalship, about this time left the service in the South, and Colonel Davie, being out of military employment by the expiration of the enlistment of his men, accepted from the Board of War the office of Superintendent Commissary General, made vacant by the resignation of Col. Thomas Polk, and accompanied the army of Gen. Greene in that capacity through the ensuing campaign.

Having thus occasion to mention the name of Col. Polk, I deem it proper to correct an error into which Mr. Lossing has fallen, in his Field Book, upon the authority of the papers of Gen. Gates, and which—unintentionally, I have no doubt—does great injustice to his memory. It is an imputation of disaffection, at the very time he held the office of Superintendent Commissary General. Fortunately, the Journal of the Board of War explains the whole matter. There was some complaint of inattention to duty on his part, in his important office, which he explained upon the ground of a scarcity of supplies, and necessary attention to his family; and Col. Martin, a member of the Board to which he was amenable, having visited the army in Mecklenburg, declares in a public letter recorded in its journals, that in his opinion, Col. Polk, under the circumstances, had fulfilled the duties of his office as well as circumstances would admit. He was immediately afterwards entrusted, by Gen. Greene, with the temporary command of a Brigadier General of militia, and in all after, as in prior time, was regarded as a firm and unwavering patriot.